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INFORMATIONAL LETTER #93-7

DATE: March 1, 1993

TO: ALL SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES

FROM: Jean Schoonover, R.N., Chief
Bureau of Facility Standards

SUBJECT: Making Survey Results Available

A number of questions have surfaced concerning the requirement for facilities to make available the most recent Medicare/Medicaid survey results. The regulations states:

F179 42 CFR 483.10(g)(1)-(2) Examination of survey results. A resident has the right to:

(1) Examine the results of the most recent survey of the facility conducted by Federal or State surveyors and any plan or correction in effect with respect to the facility.

In a place readily accessible to residents, the facility must make the results available for examination and must post either the results themselves or a notice of their ability.

Interpretive Guidelines: 483.10(g)(1)-(2)

“Results of the most recent survey” means the Statement of Deficiencies/Plan of Correction (HCFA-2567) generated by the most recent standard survey and any subsequent extended or partial extended surveys, as well as, the results of any subsequent complaint investigation(s).

“Made available for examination” means that survey results and approved plans of correction, if required, are available in a readable form, such as a binder, and have not been altered by the facility.

“Place readily accessible to residents” is a place (such as a lobby or other area frequented by most residents) where individuals wishing to examine survey results should not have to ask to see them.

Therefore, the facility may choose from the following two (2) options:

1. Post the entire survey in a readily accessible location, such as a bulletin board.
2. Post a notice stating where the entire survey results can be found; then make the survey results available in this other location, such as in a binder on a table in a lounge area.

It is not acceptable to keep the survey results in the administrator's office, at the nurses' station, or any other place that is sometimes locked or where residents would have to ask for assistance. Residents must have free access to the survey at any time, day or night.

It is also of note that all survey results going back to the last standard survey must be made accessible. This includes the results of any complaint investigations or follow-up surveys.

Jean Schoonover, R.N., Chief
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JS/tm

cc: John Hathaway, Supervisor, Long Term Care Section
Idaho Health Care Association

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